World Bank Aid Programme

3801. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA :
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have signed a Rs. 1,550 crore World bank Aid Programme for improvement in the quality of existing technical institutes in the country, if so, the details of the programme and whether only six States, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Kerala have been selected as models for World Bank Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme;

(b) the criteria adopted for selection of the States, indicating the precise objective of the programme and the details of the aid, State-wise ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to secure such aid for other States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The Government has launched "Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India" with World Bank Assistance for improving the quality of technical education in the country. The total cost of the first phase of the Programme for Tenth Plan period is Rs. 1,550 crore consisting of Central component of Rs. 350 crore and State component of Rs. 1,200 crore.

For the first cycle of the first phase, six States namely, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have been selected to participate in the Programme based on their budgetary commitments and preparedness. The other States which are willing to participate in the Programme can join in the subsequent cycles based on their preparedness and budgetary commitments.

The objective of the Programme is to upscale and support ongoing efforts of Government of India in improving quality of technical education. Further, it will enhance existing capacities of the institutions to become dynamic, demand-driven, quality conscious, efficient and forward looking,

responsive to rapid economic and technological developments occurring both at national and international levels.

Low female literacy

3802. DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a good number of low female literacy districts have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to increase female literacy in such districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) According to the Census report 2001, there are 45 districts in the country which have a female literacy below 30%. No district in Andhra Pradesh has a female literacy below 30%. However, continuing education programmes are being implemented in 21 districts of the state, where income generation programmes, quality of life improvement programmes and formation of women's self help groups are taken up alongside programmes for removal of residual illiteracy, particularly among women. The State Government is also implementing the Akshara Sankranti programme where major thrust is being given to improvement of women's literacy.

Results of Central School, Panagarh, West Bengal

†3803. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the examination results and other conditions of the Central School, Panagarh (West Bengal) were pitiable four years back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the academic results of the school has been found admirable and a drastic change in discipline has been noted for the last three years;

(c) if so, the year-wise details of the efforts made for such improvement during the last three years;

(d) whether Government propose to make such efforts in other schools too; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.